



ADMINISTRATION  
1101 NEW YORK AVENUE  
ALAMOGORDO, NM 88310

WWW.CO.OTERO.NM.US  
☎ (575) 437-7427  
📠 (575) 443-2928

September 13, 2018

The Honorable Stevan E. Pearce,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for proposed bill to amend the boundaries of the  
White Sands National Monument

Dear Congressman Pearce:

Senator Heinrich introduced S. 2796 on May 7th. It would make the White Sands National Monument, which mostly lies in Otero County, a national park. The Board of County Commissioners of Otero County is strongly against this change and adopted a resolution expressing that opposition on April 12th. After Senator Heinrich introduced his bill, we again wrote him—copying you—on May 17th expressing our concerns about the bill.

We understand that you are planning to introduce a bill in the House of Representatives that would alter the boundaries of the National Monument and we have reviewed a draft of the bill.

We supported the part of Senator Heinrich's bill that amended the boundaries. The Army's White Sands Missile Range has in-holdings within the perimeter of the Monument. S. 2796 would eliminate those and delineate more rational boundaries between the Monument and the Missile Range that would make administration of the Monument simpler.

Your bill adopts the part of S. 2796 that we support and omits the remaining, objectionable features.

Because of that, the Otero County Commissioners support your proposed bill to amend the boundaries of the White Sands National Monument.

Sincerely yours,

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
OTERO COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

By:

Lori A. Bies, Chairwoman

Janet T. White, Commissioner

Susan Flores, Vice-chairwoman

cc: Martin T. Heinrich, United States Senate  
Thomas S. Udall, United States Senate  
Robert W. Bishop, Chairman,  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Raúl M. Grijalva, Ranking Minority Member,  
House Committee on Natural Resources